

labourers of anxiety and sorrow : Gold is bright as the morning, but fatal as the storm at midnight : beware of the silent approach of the serpent, beware of the beauty of woman, but chiefly beware of the power of gold. It is produced among poisons in the bowels of the earth, and its fruits are calamity and guilt. The caravan stopped, for every one revered the wisdom and virtue of Omar. I will tell you, said Omar, the adventures of Sadir, Haran, and Zimur.

Sadir, Haran, and Zimur, were friends ; amiable and young, their feet had yet not deviated from the paths of virtue. They set out together on a journey, and as they were travelling along the plains of Indostan, it happened that they found a treasure. This was at once the test of virtue and of friendship. Every heart throbbed, and every breast was opened to mirth and pleasure. To divide it, would have been an outrage on the delicacy and confidence of their amity. Let the bounty of heaven, said they, be the common blessing of us all. Mutually to share without division, will at once gratify and increase our confidence and love. As they had now the means of enjoyment, they determined to enjoy : they travelled by shorter stages, and they procured every accommodation that wealth could buy. When they reached the next town, Zimur was deputed by Sadir, and Haran

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to procure them provisions, an office that suited his taste, his knowledge, and his activity. As soon as he was gone, Sadir and Haran fixed their eyes upon the treasure, and for some time silent : at length they stole a glance at each other, each was conscious to his own wish, and thought he saw it reflected from the countenance of his friend. They began a conversation, in which this wish was mutually disclosed by almost imperceptible degrees. If we should now secure this gold and depart, said Sadir, whom could Zimur blame but his own indiscretion ; would it not make two more happy than three ? Shall we not gain at least what he will lose, and can we deserve an opportunity that we neglect to improve ?

The wife only, said Haran, are appointed to prosperity : Zimur has no right to share the treasure with us, and we shall only fulfil an unchangeable decree if we keep the whole to ourselves. It is true, replied Sadir ; but if he should again find us, he may question the determination, and claim his part : this, said Haran, must be prevented. The dead are silent, and cease from troubling. Such was the wish that gold excited in the hearts of Sadir and Haran, and such was the crime by which it was to be accomplished. Zimur returned in the evening, weary with labour, and pleased with the anticipation of refreshment and rest. But his associates seized him

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